



COLD WAR ALASKA

During the “Cold War,” Alaska was dotted with aircraft control and warning sites. Below is information gleaned from the internet.

[Excerpts from the “Air Defense In Alaska” page, located at <http://www.topcover.af.mil/orgs/HOMEPAGE/airdef.htm>. (This link is no longer active)]. This was copied from <http://www.radomes.org/museum/alaska.html>.

“... Contracts were awarded during the spring of 1950, and work was started shortly afterwards on constructing a line of coastal surveillance, interior ground control and intercept and control center radar sites known as the AC&W system.



Sparrevohn



Indian Mountain

“The Korean War provided more funding, and AAC decided to build two additional ground controlled intercept sites to cover radar gaps in the interior. Since the two sites selected, **Sparrevohn** and **Indian Mountain**, were accessible only by air, and contract costs were potentially high, AAC elected to use military construction units. Work was begun on the two sites during the summer of 1951.



Cape Newenham

“**Murphy Dome** and **Fire Island** became operational in September 1951 as control center sites. They were followed by **King Salmon** (control center), November 1951; **Tatalina** and **Campion** (ground control and intercept), April 1952; **Cape Lisburne**, February 1953; **Cape Romanzof**, **Tin City**, and **Northeast Cape** (all surveillance sites), April 1953; **Indian Mountain**, November 1953; **Sparrevohn**, March 1954; and **Cape Newenham** (surveillance), April 1954. Additional surveillance sites were later added. **Kotzebue** and **Ohlson Mountain** (near Homer) became operational in February 1958, **Middleton Island** in May 1958, **Unalakleet** in April 1958 and **Bethel** in July 1958. **Fort Yukon** became operational as a ground control intercept site in April 1958. ...

“... The surveillance sites at Bethel, Middleton Island, and Ohlson Mountain were closed on 15 May 1963, leaving a
(continued on page 3)

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We begin the new year on a sad note. We must report the passing of Harold O. Fossum on December 1, 2004 in Juneau. Harold was born in Katalla, Alaska on May 24, 1929. His family left Alaska in 1930, to return to southeast Alaska in 1940. The tokens of Katalla were of special interest to him.



I had known Harold for over 25 years. He was generous with his knowledge, honest in his dealings, and a true example of an Alaskan gentleman. He will be missed by the Alaska token collecting fraternity, as well as many others.

On a brighter note, Kaye Dethridge has dredged up some classic Alaska tokens, one probably setting a price record for an Alaska token. You can pick them out from the prices realized in the next column.

We hope that you enjoy the lead article this month. Goes to show that nearly anything can be mined from the internet. Anything, that is except what I am really looking for!

Finally, thanks to those who signed up for another year. I hope that you will find our efforts worthwhile once again.

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PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Anchorage , Masonic Penny, B-28a	75.88
Anchorage , Gold and Copper, B-30a	779.00
Cordova , Johnson, 12½¢, B-21b	150.00OB
Cordova , Little, 12½¢, B-22a	113.13
(Dillingham) , CR Packers, B-2f	48.03
Douglas , The Canteen, 12½¢, B-5a	860.00
Eyak , B&N, 12½¢, b-1b	967.12
Fairbanks , F&G, B-15a	125.00OB
Haines , Brouillette, 10¢, B-3a	OB195.00NB
Juneau , J. Drug Co., 6¼¢, B-35b	195.00OB
Ketchikan , BPOE, 12½¢, B-5a	OB175.00NB
(Ketchikan) , The Electric, B-13a	28.77
Ketchikan , Lotus Buffet, 6¼¢, B-31c	18.00
Ketchikan , The Mint, 12½¢, B-33a	19.99NB
Ketchikan , Pio. P.R., 10¢, B-47a	20.50
McCarthy , Golden Hotel, 25¢, B-2b	31.99
Nenana , Portland, \$1, B-6a	283.89
Nome , B of T, 12½¢, B-8i, very corroded	207.13
Palmer , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	44.02
Port Heiden , Pack. Co., 50¢, B-1c	1,406.00
St. Michael , *Negus, 25¢, B-1a	2,020.00
*attributed to Scammon Bay by Dethridge	
Salchaket , Trading Post, \$1, B-1c	3,208.08
Selavik , Rotman, 25¢, B-1a	23.05
Selavik , Rotman, 50¢, B-1b	15.00
Selavik , Rotman, \$1, B-1c	17.00
Seward , The Branch, B-3a	515.96
Seward , Northern, 12½¢, B-8a	150.00OB
Seward , Northern, 12½¢, B-8bii	OB155.00NB
Seward , Northern, 12½¢, B-8iii	31.00
Seward , Seward Bar, 12½¢, B-14a	28.50
Seward , Up & Up, 12½¢, B-18a	95.00OB
Skagway , Anderson, 6¼¢, B-1a	30.00OB
Skagway , BPOE, B-2b	OB35.00NB
Skagway , BoT, 6¼¢, B-4bii	56.55
Skagway , BoT, 12½¢, B-4d	108.50
Skagway , M&E, 25¢, B-16c	18.27
Skagway , M&E, \$1, B-16e	OB20.00NB
Skagway , Mascot, 12½¢, B-17c	50.00OB
Skagway , Monogram, 6¼¢, B-18a	405.00
Skagway , P.C. Co., B-19a	21.62
Skagway , Pullen House, Meal, B-22a	15.00OB
Valdez , Fairbanks, 6¼¢, B-6a	415.12
Wrangell , Dalgity, 10¢, B-2b	470.00
Dawson, YT , B&M, 12½¢	60.00OB
Dawson, YT , Lace Garter fantasy	OB25.00NB
Dawson, YT , Tanana Hotel, 25¢,	OB300.00NB
Whitehorse , Alguire, 25¢	OB50.00NB
Whitehorse , TD&P, \$20	OB35.00NB
Tierra del Fuego , Popper, 5 Gms	OB4975.00NB

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist
 RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve
 BIN = Buy it now

COLD WAR ALASKA, CONT.

void in the radar coverage to the south. Headquarters Alaskan Air Command, and, to some extent the Alaskan Command, provided command and control until the reactivation of an AC&W control group in 1977.

“In 1969, the Joint Chiefs of Staff directed a reduction in air defense forces. As a result, the Fire Island NORAD control center and the NORAD surveillance sites at Unalakleet and Northeast Cape closed during the last half of 1969. The Aleutian DEW line segment was deactivated on 30 September 1969. The main site at Cold Bay was converted to a NORAD surveillance site. ...

“... With the closure of Fire Island, King Salmon assumed responsibility as the NORAD control center for the entire southern sector of the Alaskan NORAD Region.

“Campion was converted from a NORAD control center to a ground-controlled intercept station in mid-1973, following an ANR study to reduce manpower positions. At the same time, Kotzebue was converted from a ground-controlled intercept site to a surveillance station. Murphy Dome became responsible for the northern sector. ...

“... By the 1970s, the aircraft control and warning system had become expensive to maintain and was obsolete. In July 1973, Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen John D. Ryan, made a personal inspection of the system. The following year, the Air Staff released its Saber Yukon study, which recommended that the system be modernized. As a result, AAC was included in the Electronic Systems Division-managed program to replace the SAGE system with a joint USAF-FAA use Region Operations Control Center/Joint Surveillance System (ROCC/JSS). The command also initiated another program to replace the site radars with minimally attended radars. The Alaskan-unique Seek Igloo program, as it became known, was also managed by the Electronic Systems Division.

“Construction of the Alaskan ROCC, or “Top ROCC,” was begun in 1980. It achieved initial operational capability on 14 June 1983, and fully operational capability on 15 September 1983.

“Canadian manning was provided in the ROCC as part of a joint agreement. On 18 September 1986, Brig Gen Ronald Bell, Canadian Forces, became the first full time

Deputy Commander, ANR with responsibilities for day-to-day operations. The duties had formerly belonged to the Vice Commander, AAC as an added duty.

“Since all the radar data was remoted back to the ROCC from the 13 sites, the large number of personnel at the sites were no longer needed. All military personnel were phased out by September 1983. The 13 AC&W squadrons were inactivated 1 November 1983. The AC&W sites were redesignated long range radar sites.

“A small number of contract civilian personnel remained at the sites to provide maintenance. The site operating support functions had been contracted to RCA Services in 1977, as part of an Air Force-wide effort to reduce remote tours and cost.

“The final phase of the radar modernization phase was completed in 1985 with the change out of the radars for the AN/FPS-117 minimally attended radars (MARs). As denoted by the acronym MAR, the new radar required far less personnel than the old ones. Additionally, they had both a search and height-finding capability.

“Campion was closed in favor of locating the new radar to Galena where it would require less personnel to maintain. The old Cold Bay site was also closed, and a new site was built nearer the Cold Bay Airport. Both relocations were done to save personnel and transportation costs.

“The FPS-117 intended for Murphy Dome was diverted to a demonstration program, and the AN/FPS-97 surveillance radar was left in place. It was later replaced with an FPS-117. Because of Seek Igloo program, Murphy Dome could no longer be used as an alternate command center. The Alaskan Air Command, as a replacement, acquired donated rail cars from the Alaska Railroad and converted them into an alternate command center. The rail based center was routinely deployed during exercises until 1993 when its use was discontinued...”

Office of History, 11th Air Force, March 1996.

(Editor’s Note): Most of the sites mentioned used tokens or chits. The ones that do not have known tokens or chits are Ohlson Mountain, Bethel and Fort Yukon. Perhaps some research into these areas is warranted!

ALASKA MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



ALASKA: 354th Mission Support Sq. Bronze with red and blue enamel, 38mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD: 50th Anniversary. Cupronickel with blue and yellow enamel. Bronze without enamel (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



EIELSON A.F.B.: Husky Intelligence. Bronze, 39mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



EIELSON A.F.B.: 353d Combat Training Squadron, Cope Thunder. Cupronickel and bronze, 44mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



EIELSON A.F.B.: Team Eielson, Home of the Ice-man. Silver finish with light blue, dark blue and yellow enamel, 40mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ELMENDORF A.F.B.: 732d Air Mobility Sq., Team Alaska, Huskies. Silver finish with dark blue, light blue, green, white and yellow enamel, 39mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ELMENDORF A.F.B.: Map and shields. Oxidized silver finish, blue, yellow and white enamel 40mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



ELMENDORF A.F.B.: Elmendorf AMMO. Bronze with dark blue, red, yellow and white enamel, 39mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).

ALASKA MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS, CONT.



FORT WAINWRIGHT: 172nd Infantry. Bronze with dark blue, white, red and yellow enamel, 40mm (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).

U.S.S. ALASKA SSBN 732: Christened 12 January 1985. Cast base metal, 46mm. The eagle and flag design was used on commemorative items for Alaska's 25th anniversary of statehood in 1984 (submitted by Kurtis Hawk).



U.S. MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS-ICELAND



KEFLAVIK, ICELAND: 85th Tanker Flight, Nobody Kicks Ass Without Tanker Gas, Your hole is our goal. Bronze, 40mm (eBay).



KEFLAVIK, ICELAND: First Class Mess, Naval Hospital Keflavik. Failure is not an option. This has to be one of the neatest we have seen. Bronze with red, white and blue enamel. Approximately 40mm by 50mm (eBay).



KEFLAVIK, ICELAND: Satellite Ground Terminal, F-15 NATO SATCOM. Indistinguishable metal, probably has white enamel, approximately 39mm (eBay).

ICELAND MEDAL



ICELAND: 200th Anniversary of the Iceland Police. Bronze, size reduced, actual size 45mm (eBay)

FOR THE RECORD



ALASKA PACIFIC SALMON CO.: Four chits - 5 cents (pink), 10 and 25 Cents, and \$1 (colors indistinguishable). Location of usage unknown. Alaska Pacific Salmon Co. had a cannery in Unga in 1931. (submitted by Kaye Dethridge, eBay PR \$16.50)



CORDOVA: Herbert Johnson, 12½¢ in trade. Listed (B-21b) but not illustrated (submitted by Kaye Dethridge).



DOUGLAS: The Canteen, Rossman & Kohn, 12½¢ in trade. Listed (B-5a) but not illustrated. A neat pictorial with a canteen (submitted by Kaye Dethridge).



<<<< **(Westport, WA):** Here is a Sourdough Lil's I had not seen before. Benice notes that there are fantasy restrikes. 25mm, aluminum.



MURPHEY DOME: NCO Open Mess. \$5, 10¢(?) and 25¢; aluminum, 23, 26 and 29mm respectively. Offered on eBay with an opening bid of \$49.99, no bids received. These tokens are unlisted. They just don't "feel" right to your editor. Anyone out there heard anything we haven't about these??



ALASKA: Pacific American Fisheries, Inc. \$1 chit, 52 x 24mm. They had several canneries around Alaska. Four pieces attached sold on eBay for \$18.50.



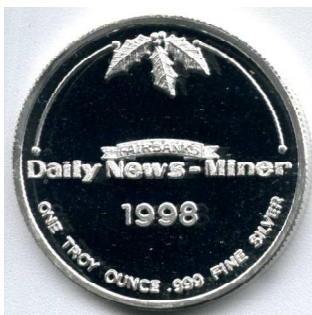
Pacific American Fisheries, Inc. stocks can be found in our book "*Alaska & Yukon Stocks and Bonds*" on pages 243 to 245. Their cannery at Port Moller is shown below.



FOR THE RECORD



ANCHORAGE: Polar Bar, four plastic tokens; Beer (black), Well (red), Premium (blue) and Call (white), all 40 mm with gold printing (except Call - black printing) (submitted by Ken Rieck).



FAIRBANKS: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Christmas silver round, 1998. One ounce silver.

EAGLE: Eagle Road House, 25¢ in trade. Black on wood (illustrated to the right).



ANCHORAGE: Rabbit Creek Inn, Lions Club, #34, plus other engraving. Lettering appears hand-punched. The center has a knob on one side, a depression on the other like a spinner token. This was located just off the Seward Highway behind Potter March. For many years it was the "in place" for dinner, but I believe it closed in the late 1980s or early 1990s. A quaint little hideaway with a bar and small dining room. The drawing card was the domesticated rabbits which had complete control of the backyard and over the years multiplied to hundreds and could be viewed through the dining room windows while you dined. And yes, the specialty dishes served were rabbit!



ALASKA-CANADA: Peace L. Indian Money, 1944, 2 Bits. Interesting fabrication. (submitted by Carol Plante).



ANCHORAGE: TGI Jerry's, good for one drink. Black on wood (submitted by Ken Rieck).

